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## United States Senate

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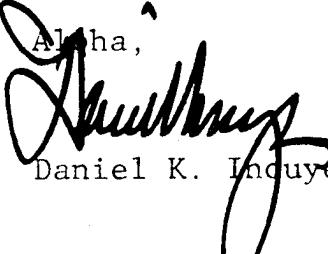
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Thank you for your letter of 6 February 1982 concerning the distribution of benefits to the spouses of CIA officers participating in the CIA Retirement and Disability System (CIARDS). I am also aware that you have contacted my office by telephone and have been in contact with members of the staff of the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate.

By letter of 7 January of this year I communicated to you the views of the Director of Central Intelligence on this issue, to the effect that provisions applicable to spouses of Agency personnel participating in CIARDS should be equivalent to those applicable within the civil service system. I realize, however, that the situation of the spouses of CIA officers serving abroad, especially those not functioning in a diplomatic capacity, are difficult and considerably different than that of the spouses of ordinary civil servants. In many ways their situation resembles that of the spouses of foreign service officers, for whom legislation along the lines you are interested in (creation of a vested interest in retirement benefits for the spouse) was provided in the Foreign Service Act of 1980. In many ways the situation of the spouse of a non-diplomatic CIA officer abroad can be even more difficult than that of a Foreign Service spouse.

I am informed that there is considerable interest among the staff of the Select Committee to prepare this issue for the consideration of the entire Committee. I believe there is already considerable understanding of, and interest in, this issue within the Committee. I will keep you informed of any actions or concerns of the Committee that may be of special interest to you. I hope you will cooperate in every way with the staff in preparing this issue for our consideration.

Thank you for your interest in this important issue that affects the condition and efforts of dedicated United States employees abroad.

Alpha,  
  
Daniel K. Inouye